

disclaimer. The subject matter of claims 14 and 15 has been added to independent claims 1 and 25. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Applicants affirm the provisional election of Group I, claims 1-24.

Applicants request rejoinder of claims 25-27 under M.P.E.P. §821.04. Because claims 25-27 are now in allowable form, since they contain the subject matter of allowed claim 15 and are commensurate with present amended claim 1, it is requested that the developing method claims of Group II be rejoined with the product claims of Group I, directed to the developer.

The objection to claims 23 and 24 under Rule 112, second paragraph, has been obviated by the cancellation of such claims.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 15-18 would be deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, in order to obviate the art rejection, independent claims 1 and 25 have been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowed claim 15. Accordingly, it is submitted that all the claims are now in allowable form and that the case should be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner has any remaining concerns, he is requested to contact the undersigned in order to resolve them.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Appendix

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A replenishing developer, comprising: 1 wt. part of a carrier and 2 - 50 wt. parts of a toner, wherein the carrier is a magnetic fine particle-dispersed resin carrier comprising at least inorganic compound particles and a carrier binder resin, [and] the toner has a weight-average particle size of 3 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and contains 1 to 40 wt. % of solid wax and

wherein the inorganic compound particles comprise magnetic particles containing at least one additive element selected from the group consisting of magnesium, silicon, manganese and phosphorous, wherein the magnetic particles contain said at least one additive element in a total amount of 0.03 - 5.0 wt. % of Fe.

16. (Amended) A replenishing developer according to claim [15] 1, wherein the magnetite particles contain at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of zinc, copper, nickel, cobalt, aluminum, tin, titanium and zirconium in a total amount of 0.01 - 3.0 wt. % of Fe, and contain the additive element and the metal element surface-exposed on the magnetite particles in a total amount of 0.01 - 1.5 wt. % of Fe.

18. (Amended) A replenishing developer according to claim [15] 1, wherein said at least one additive element is divided into a first additive element of magnesium and at least one second additive element selected from the group consisting of silicon, manganese and phosphorous, and said first additive element and said at least one second additive element are contained in the magnetite particles in a weight ratio of 1:9 to 9:1.

25. (Amended) A developing method, comprising: developing an electrostatic latent image on an image-bearing member with a two-component developer comprising a toner and a carrier stored in a developer vessel, while supplying as required a replenishing developer to the developer vessel;

wherein the replenishing developer comprises 1 wt. part of a carrier and 2 - 50 wt parts of a toner, wherein the carrier is a magnetic fine particle-dispersed resin carrier comprising at least inorganic compound particles and a carrier binder resin, [and] the toner has a weight-average particle size of 3 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and contains 1 to 40 wt. % of solid wax, and

wherein the inorganic compound particles comprise magnetic particles containing at least one additive element selected from the group consisting of

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magnesium, silicon, manganese and phosphorous, wherein the magnetic particles contain said at least one additive element in a total amount of 0.03 - 5.0 wt. % of Fe.

27. (Amended) A developing method according to claim 25, using as the replenishing developer a replenishing developer according any one of claims [2 - 22] 2-13 or 16-22.--

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